October XX, 2016

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Environment & Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, Chairman Shuster, and Ranking Member DeFazio;

We would first like to thank you for your work and leadership in passing the House and Senate versions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). As members of the Great Lakes delegation, we urge you to retain the following provisions as the two chambers reconcile these bills:

From the House version, H.R. 5303:

- **Sec. 191: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), Joyce Amendment**; reauthorizes the GLRI for 5 years. GLRI accelerates efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes through the remediation of toxic substances, the prevention and control of invasive species, and the restoration of wildlife habitat. (amendment passed 407-18)
- **Sec. 189: Great Lakes Navigation System, Huizenga Amendment**; makes the 10% set-aside in priority funding for the Great Lakes Navigation System permanent. (amendment passed on voice)
- **Sec. 162: Federal Cost Limitation of Ecosystem Restoration Costs for Certain Projects, Dold Amendment**; allows up to 10% of Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) funds to be used for recreational enhancements. (amendment passed on voice)
- **Sec. 116: Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration**; lifts the spending cap on GLFER which was set in WRDA 2000 and has long been outdated.

From the Senate version, S. 2848:

- **Sec. 7612: Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act**; authorizes U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to undertake projects to restore fish and wildlife ecosystems on the Great Lakes.
- **Sec. 4018: Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act**; creates a voluntary Resilient Waterfront Community designation recognizing communities that

adopt a waterfront revitalization and resiliency plan integrating economic, ecosystem, and infrastructure challenges and opportunities.

- **Sec. 6008: Saint Lawrence Seaway Modernization**; authorizes a GAO study to assess the condition of the Seaway and its capacity to drive commerce and other economic activity throughout the Great Lakes region.
- **Sec. 7207: Great Lakes Harmful Algal Bloom Coordinator;** creates a single point person to coordinate all of the different agency work on harmful algal blooms—necessary to ensure that all federal, state, and local efforts are properly integrated.
- **Sec. 7104: Other Authorized Activities**; authorizes states to use drinking water funds to implement source water protection programs.
- **Sec. 7106: Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities**; establishes a grant program to assist public water systems in small and struggling communities in meeting health-based standards.
- **Sec. 7201: Sewer Overflow Control Grants**; reauthorizes grants addressing combined and sanitary sewer overflows to help address this issue in a flexible, cost-effective manner that meets state water quality standards.
- **Sec. 7204: Green Infrastructure Promotion**; requires EPA to promote green infrastructure which promises to increase the longevity of these projects and to reduce costs over time.
- **Title VII Subtitle D – Drinking Water Disaster Relief and Infrastructure Investment**; provides critical funding to replace water infrastructure in communities that have had their water contaminated by lead and other relief efforts.

As you know, the Great Lakes are a unique natural system of global economic and environmental significance. They represent the world's largest system of fresh surface water, supplying drinking water for more than 30 million Americans; supporting over 1.5 million jobs, generating $62 billion in wages each year; and they are home to over 3,500 species of plants and animals. The programs listed above will ensure that the industry, ecosystem, and beauty of the Great Lakes will continue to provide such a bounty for our constituents.

Thank you for your efforts and leadership thus far, and thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have questions, please contact Samuel Breene, Legislative Director of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, at 225-5406 or samuel.breene@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

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Member of Congress
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